

Results of the Federal Chancellor's telephone conference with the Federal State Minister Presidents on 28 October 2020

Fighting the SARS-Cov2 pandemic

The Federal Chancellor and the Federal State Minister Presidents decree the following decision:

Despite the measures agreed by the federal and state governments two weeks ago, the number of coronavirus infections (SARS-CoV-2) has now risen in almost all regions of Germany with exponential dynamism. This has led to the result that numerous Public Health Offices can no longer guarantee the contact tracking, which in turn can lead to an accelerated spread of the virus. Therefore it is now necessary, through a significant reduction in contacts throughout the population, to altogether reduce the infection process and the number of new infections to a traceable scale of less than 50 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants during a period of one week. Without such restrictions, the further exponential growth in the number of infected persons inevitably leads to an overburden of the health care system and reduce the number of serious courses of disease and deaths would increase considerably. It is also essential, to react quickly now. The later the infection dynamics are reversed, the longer or more extensive restrictions are required.

The aim of the federal and state governments is to quickly interrupt the infection dynamics so that during the Christmas season no far-reaching restrictions with regard to personal contacts and economic activity are required. Families and friends should also be able meet under Corona conditions during the Christmas season. For this it requires, now again, as already in spring, a common effort.

The federal and state governments are aware that the restrictions on the population represent a great burden. Therefore the vast majority of thanks to the population, who have so far and will continue to support these measures with public spirit and patience and especially to those who are responsible for the practical implementation of the measures and, of course, also to those who are involved in the health care system.

The situation is now very serious again. Four difficult winter months lie ahead of us. But Federal and state governments look to the future with confidence. The progress made in the vaccine development and the easier infection control in summer give us the hope that Germany, if it comes through this winter well, will be able to, in the coming year, overcome the pandemic step by step and the economy can recover.

Against this background, the Federal Chancellor and Federal State Minister Presidents have unanimously agreed on the following, in addition to their previous resolutions within their states. The state of Rheinland-Pfalz will implement as stated below:

1. **Effective Monday, 2 November 2020**, throughout all of Germany, the following additional measures will go into force. These measures will be **limited in time until Monday, 30 November 2020**. After two weeks, the Chancellor and the heads of the federal states will meet again to discuss the goals achieved by the measures and make necessary adjustments.

2. The most important measure in the coming time will be to keep a distance and reduce contacts. Citizens are encouraged to reduce the number of contacts to other people outside of your own family and households to an absolutely necessary minimum. Therefore, only members of one's own household and of another household (**maximum 10 individuals**) are allowed to be present in public. This is binding and violations of these contact restrictions will be sanctioned accordingly by the authorities of law and order.
3. Gatherings of people celebrating in public places, in apartments and private facilities are unacceptable in view of the serious situation in our country. Federal and state governments will cooperate in the increased controls.
4. Citizens are asked to generally refrain from any private trips and visits - even from visiting own relatives. This also applies to domestic and day trips within Germany. Accommodation offers in Germany are only available for necessary and expressly non-touristic purposes.
5. Institutions and facilities that are related to recreational activities **will be closed**. This includes:
 - a. theaters, operas, concert halls, and similar institutions
 - b. trade fairs, cinemas, amusement parks and providers of leisure activities (indoor and outdoor), amusement arcades, casinos, betting shops and similar facilities
 - c. prostitution, brothels and similar establishments
 - d. the leisure and amateur sports operation on and in all public and private sports facilities, swimming and fun pools,
 - e. Fitness studios (gyms) and similar facilities.
6. Events that serve entertainment purposes are prohibited.
7. Restaurants, bars, clubs, discotheques, pubs and similar establishments **will be closed**. This does not include the delivery and pick-up of take-away food for consumption at home.
8. Service providers in the field of body care, such as cosmetic studios, massage parlors, tattoo studios and similar businesses will be closed because physical proximity is essential in this area. Medically necessary treatments, for example physiotherapy, will continue to be possible. **Hairdressing salons/barber shops will remain open under the existing hygiene concepts.**
9. The retail trade remains subject to requirements for hygiene, access control and opened altogether to avoid queues. It must be ensured that there is **no more than one customer per 10 square meters** of sales area in the stores.
10. **Schools and kindergartens remain open**. In view of the high numbers of infections, further protective measures are being introduced by the federal states.

11. Even in the pandemic, we want to ensure that industry, trade and medium-sized businesses can continue to enable work as comprehensively as possible. The employers have a special responsibility for its employees to protect them from infections. Four (4) Infection chains that arise in the company can be quickly identified. Therefore every company in Germany must also be able to operate on the basis of an adapted risk assessment and operational pandemic planning. Hygiene concept and, in view of the increased number of infections again. The aim is, among other things, to avoid unnecessary contacts within the workforce and with customers, implement general hygiene measures and Risk of infection in case of necessary contacts due to special hygienic and to minimize protective measures. The federal and state governments demand that companies now again in view of the high number of infections, wherever this is feasible to make home office possible. The employees responsible for occupational health and safety authorities as well as the accident insurance institutions advise the companies and carry out controls.
12. The federal and state governments will once again intensify the information about the current Corona measures and increase the clarity by means of measures that are as uniform as possible. However, they will also strengthen the controls to ensure compliance with the measures throughout the country and will also check compliance with the quarantine regulations by means of suspect-independent controls, especially in the area close to the border.
13. The federal and state governments are aware that these are very drastic measures. But they are necessary and they are proportionate in view of the legal interest of public health to be protected and to avert even greater economic damage in the event of an uncontrolled pandemic.